

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY PARIS

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NESCO

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SEDU, UNESCO

SUBJECT: U.S. NOMINATION FOR UNESCO'S ANNUAL AWARD FOR
MERITORIOUS WORK IN LITERACY
REF: LAWTON/LICHTIG TELCON

1. IT IS REQUESTED THAT PERMDEL IMMEDIATELY INFORM UNESCO
BY LETTER THAT USG NOMINATION FOR SUBJECT AWARDS THIS YEAR
IS THE ADULT BASIC EDUCATION PROGRAM OF THE STATE OF
VERMONT. PURSUANT TO THE DG'S LETTER CL/2547 DATED MARCH
30, 1977, WE ARE SENDING TODAY BY AIR POUCH (REGISTRY NO.
1634930) SIX COPIES OF A PRESENTATION OF THIS PROGRAM FOR
YOUR SUBMISSION TO THE UNESCO SECRETARIAT.

2. THE STATE OF VERMONT ADULT BASIC EDUCATION PROGRAM
OVER THE PAST FOUR YEARS (1973-1977) HAS MADE A SIGNIFI-
CANT CONTRIBUTION AT THE LOCAL, STATE AND NATIONAL LEVELS
IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF LITERACY PROGRAMS, SERVING AS A
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MODEL TO PROGRAMS IN OTHER STATES. THE VERMONT PROGRAM
HAS TAUGHT INCREASING NUMBERS OF ADULT ILLITERATES BY
ORGANIZING UNIQUE PROGRAMS AT THE LOCAL AND STATE LEVELS,
BY DEVELOPING PUBLIC SUPPORT, BY RESEARCHING AND IMPLE-
MENTING NEW METHODS AND MATERIALS, AND BY INVOLVING NEW
GROUPS AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS OF ALL AGES IN THE LITERACY
PROCESS.

3. THE VERMONT PROGRAM HAS PIONEERED IN THE COMBINED AND COORDINATED USE OF FULL-TIME PAID HOME TUTORS AND LITERACY VOLUNTEERS. IN 1976 THE VERMONT PROGRAM WAS ONE OF TWENTY PROJECTS IN THE UNITED STATES TO RECEIVE FEDERAL ADULT RIGHT-TO-READ FUNDS TO DEMONSTRATE NEW APPROACHES TO LITERACY INSTRUCTION. BY THE END OF THE FIRST YEAR THE VERMONT PROJECT WAS VIEWED AS ONE OF TWO OR THREE "EXEMPLARY" PROJECTS NATIONALLY.

4. THE VERMONT ADULT BASIC EDUCATION PROGRAM HAS BEEN INFLUENCED BY LITERACY PROGRAMS IN OTHER COUNTRIES AND HAS INFLUENCED OTHER PROGRAMS, AS WELL. THE IDEAS AND WRITINGS OF PAOLO FREIRE AND JULIUS NYERERE'S "EDUCATION FOR SELF-RELIANCE" HAVE AFFECTED PROGRAM STAFF AND PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT. ARTICLES BY FREIRE, NYERERE AND OTHERS ARE REPRINTED IN VERMONT'S BEGIN UNDERSCORE ADULT EDUCATION REPORT END UNDERSCORE AND MADE AVAILABLE TO PROGRAM STAFF. IN SEPTEMBER 1975 THE VERMONT PROGRAM BEGAN PUBLISHING THE BEGIN UNDERSCORE GREEN MOUNTAIN EAGLE, END UNDERSCORE A NEWSPAPER WRITTEN ALMOST ENTIRELY BY STUDENTS. THE EAGLE WAS MODELED AFTER THE NEWSPAPER, BEGIN UNDERSCORE EL CAMPESENO, END UNDERSCORE PUBLISHED BY COLOMBIA'S "ACCION POPULAR" LITERACY PROGRAM.

5. THE VERMONT PROGRAM HAS ALSO HAD CONSIDERABLE SUCCESS IN ATTRACTING SUPPORT AT THE LOCAL AND STATE LEVELS. OVER THE PAST THREE YEARS SEVERAL HUNDRED VOLUNTEER TUTORS HAVE BEEN TRAINED BY THE PROGRAM AND THEY HAVE BEEN INVOLVED IN LITERACY INSTRUCTION AT THE LOCAL LEVEL. STATE UNCLASSIFIED

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AND LOCAL SOCIAL AGENCIES AND PROGRAMS HAVE BEEN IMPRESSED BY THE INDIVIDUALIZED SERVICES PROVIDED THEIR CLIENTS BY THE ADULT BASIC EDUCATION PROGRAM. FUNDING FOR TUTORING SERVICES HAS BEEN GIVEN BY MENTAL HEALTH, MANPOWER AND HUMAN SERVICE AGENCY FUNDS.

6. THE VERMONT PROGRAM HAS OVER THE PAST FOUR YEARS HAD CONSIDERABLE SUCCESS IN DEVELOPING NEW METHODS OF REACHING THE RURAL ADULT ILLITERATE. AND THE PROGRAM HAS HAD A CONSIDERABLE IMPACT ON PROGRAMS IN OTHER STATES. THE PROGRAM HAS SPENT FOUR YEARS DEVELOPING INNOVATIVE METHODS OF DELIVERING EDUCATIONAL SERVICES. DURING 1977 AND IN THE FUTURE THE PROGRAM WILL FOCUS MUCH MORE ON THE CONTENT OF THE PROGRAM AND MATERIALS, DEFINING MORE ACCURATELY WHAT LITERACY IS AND HOW BETTER TO HELP PEOPLE ACHIEVE IT. IN THE LONG RUN THE PROGRAM'S MOST IMPORTANT ACHIEVEMENT IS THE DEVELOPMENT OF A STAFF, A PROCESS AND AN ATMOSPHERE THAT ENCOURAGES PROGRAM GROWTH AND CHANGE; A PROGRAM THAT CONTINUES TO DEFINE, AND REDEFINE ITS MISSION AND METHODS

IN THE LIGHT OF CHANGING SOCIAL AND INDIVIDUAL NEEDS. HABIB

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Sent Date: 01-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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